

**MINUTES OF
CITY COMMISSION WORK SESSION
WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 5, 2009, 12:00 P.M.
CITY HALL, PIGEON FORGE, TENNESSEE**

Present were Mayor Whaley, Vice Mayor McClure, Commissioner Brackins, Commissioner Robinson, City Manager Teaster, City Recorder Clabo, City Attorney Gass, and interested parties. Commissioner Wear was absent

Items discussed were as follows.

1. **At the request of Motorsport Events, the City's new parking lot and proposed special events facility as it relates to the future economic impact on Pigeon Forge** – Several of the promoters were in attendance to discuss the desire for existing and possible new shows in the future and the economic impact in Pigeon Forge. Several events were discussed and different needs of each event were briefly explained.

City Attorney Gass recommended key promoters coordinate with the police department, tourism department, etc., on exact needs per event and bring back findings to council. Gass noted that he would research legal issues with using the parking lot for special events.

Following discussion, council asked promoters and staff to get ideas together over next few weeks and bring back information to council for further consideration.

2. **Discussion regarding local opt-out of law prohibiting guns in City Park** – City Attorney Gass referenced Attorney General opinion and noted that if schools are using the park, a person cannot carry a handgun in that park while a school function is being held. Parks and Recreation Director Wilbanks discussed all areas where school events are held on the premises.

All commissioners gave their viewpoints regarding carrying handguns in parks or on greenways.

Following discussion, council agreed to put on agenda for first meeting in August but to include language that would allow handguns on the greenway.

3. **Discussion of possible grant for building new fire station** – Fire Chief Watson stated that the city had moved from the top 6,000 to the top 120 for consideration of grant approval. Mike Smelcer explained that for the

station to continue to move forward, a boundary and topographical map would be necessary at a cost of approximately \$2,000. In addition, a schematic design not to exceed \$17,100 and environmental assessments and impact studies at a cost of approximately \$2,500 would be needed.

Following discussion, council asked to put items on agenda for Monday night.

After general discussion, the meeting was duly adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

APPROVED: _____
MAYOR

ATTEST: _____
CITY RECORDER